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Haverhill Urban District

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1958

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health services for the year 1958.

The Registrar General estimates that during 1958 the population of the town increased again by a further 100 people.

During the year the Public Health Committee spent a considerable time implementing schemes for slum clearance and on improving water and sewage plants in view of an anticipated increase in demand.

The Vital Statistics generally compare on the whole favourably with the national figures. No deaths occurred from any of the Notifiable Diseases including tuberculosis, and apart from a small epidemic of a mild form of measles, there were few notifications of infectious disease.

I would like to express my appreciation of the continued interest shown and encouragement given by the chairman and members of the Public Health Committee. In conclusion, the Clerk of the Council, Mr. W. C. Blake, and the Engineer and Surveyor, have shown a greatly appreciated enthusiasm in their efforts to assist in the promotion of the Public Health of the Urban District. I also wish to thank your Public Health Inspector for his active support and his contribution to this report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	...	...	...	...	...	2,530 acres
Rateable Vaue (as at 31.3.58)	...	...	...	...	...	£34,771
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£137 7s. 10d.
Rates	...	...	...	...	...	18s. 3d.
(County Rate 11s. 3d., U.D.C. Rate 7s)						
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,764
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	4,540
Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	4,096

The industrial activities are varied and comprise the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves mats and textile fabrics. The manufacture of tooth and other brushes also provides occupation for large numbers. Other factories produce ploughing and harvesting machinery, plant for sharpening lawn mowers and repairs to harvesting machinery. Rope, tarpaulins, and marquees are also manufactured. A firm manufacturing telecommunication equipment have erected a new factory to supplement their original premises. A firm of Essence manufacturers and a manufacturer of tubular steel components have erected new factories. The processing of animal feeding stuffs is also carried out.

SECTION B.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(Figures in brackets refer to the previous year)

Live Births:

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	(47) 37	(31) 37	(78) 74
Illegitimate	...	...	...	(1) —	(1) —	(2) —
Totals				(48) 37	(32) 37	(80) 74
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population...					(18.0)	16.3
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	(18.2)	16.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales))	...	...	...	...	(16.1)	16.4
Proportion of illegitimate births to legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	(2.5%)	--

Still Births:

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	(—) —	(1) —	(1) —
Illegitimate	(—) —	(—) —	(—) —
Totals				(—) —	(1) —	(1) —

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	(12.5)	.
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	(England and Wales)			(23.0) 21.6

Deaths:

	Total		Female		Male			
	(55)	58	(31)	31	(24)	27		
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(12.4)	12.8
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	(10.3)	11.3
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)							(11.5)	11.7
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...						(Nil)	Nil
Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:								
					Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	(—) 1	(—) 1	(—) 2	
Illegitimate	(—) —	(—) —	(—) —	
Totals					(—) 1	(—) 1	(—) 2	

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

Deaths per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	(—)	27.0
Deaths per 1,000 live births (England and Wales)	...	(23.0)		23.1		
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	27.0				

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES

Disease				Male		Female			Total			
Cancer (all types)		(7)	6	...	(6)	7	...	(13)	13	
Diabetes	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0
Vascular Lesions												
of the nervous system	...			(2)	4	...	(5)	4	...	(7)	8	
Heart Disease	(14)	12	...	(6)	11	...	(20)	23	
Pneumonia	(3)	2	...	(2)	4	...	(5)	6	
Bronchitis	(1)	0	...	(1)	0	...	(2)	0	
Influenza	(1)	0	...	(0)	1	...	(1)	1	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum				(0)	1	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	1	
Nephritis		1	...		0	...		1	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	
Other Accidents	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	
Suicide	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	
Homicide and Operations of War				(0)	0	...	(0)	0	...	(0)	0	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		(3)	1	...	(4)	4	...	(7)	5	
Total				(31)	27	...	(24)	31	...	(55)	58	

Adjusted Birth and Death Rates for the last five years:

			1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Birth Rates	...	...	19.3	15.2	16.5	18.2	16.0
Death Rates	...	...	11.3	10.6	10.4	10.3	11.3

SECTION C.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- (a) Dr. G. P. Barclay, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., whole time Medical Officer of Health (is also M.O.H. to several other local Authorities).
- (b) Mr. I. H. Seeley, B.Sc., M.I.Mun.E., A.R.I.C.S., Engineer and Surveyor (Appointed 23rd April, 1956).
- (c) Mr. J. B. Jackson, M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector (Resigned 31st January, 1958).
Mr. R. Banks, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.P.H.E.,
Public Health Inspector (Appointed 1st April, 1958).

Hospitals:

There are no Hospitals within the area.

Ambulance Facilities:

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance services.

Nursing in the Home:

District Nurses are available for nursing and midwifery duties.

Infant Welfare:

A welfare clinic is held weekly on Fridays and is provided by the West Suffolk County Council.

SECTION D.

Water Supply:

The Waterworks is situated in Camps Road, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the centre of the town in a westerly direction. The floor level of the pumphouse is 279.50ft. above Ordnance Datum, and the floor of the new pumphouse which houses the vertical centrifugal pump is 274.00ft. above Ordnance Datum. The supply is obtained from below the chalk stratum through boreholes. There is a well 7 feet in diameter and 103 feet deep, from the base of which two headings are taken each 25 feet long running in approximately north and south directions. There are three boreholes, one 9 inches in diameter at the bottom of the well and extending to a depth of 250 feet from the surface level, a further one through the southerly

heading 10½ in. diameter, and another of 18in. diameter taken through the northerly heading to depths of 350 and 360 feet respectively from surface level.

Pumping Machinery:

In 1951 a Sulzer vertical spindle centrifugal pump was installed in the 18in. borehole, and this raises approximately 11,000 gallons of water per hour and is powered by a 37 h.p. electric motor.

The old Tangye diesel driven reciprocating pump has been replaced with a Harland electrically operated submersible pump, capable of pumping 15,000 gallons per hour. This pump has been installed in the 10½in. diameter borehole and since the latter months of 1957 has been used to pump the larger proportion of the total water requirements of the town. A pumping test was undertaken on this pump in November, 1957, when a discharge of between 15,000 and 16,000 gallons per hour was maintained over a period of 48 hours. There was no appreciable drop in water level during the period of the test and the water rose over 70 feet within three minutes of the cessation of pumping.

All water is treated with chlorine before entering the town mains.

The water is pumped from the boreholes to a surface reservoir situated some 270 yards from the pumphouses, which has a capacity of 150,000 gallons and a top water level of 350 feet above Ordnance Datum. This reservoir is not sufficiently elevated nor has adequate capacity to supply future development and the provision of increased surface storage accommodation and a water tower is planned by the Council's Consultants, Messrs. Howard Humphreys and Sons, as an integral part of their water supply proposals to serve the expanded town.

The number of dwelling houses connected to the water mains is as follows:

(a) Within the U.D.C. area	...	...	...	1756
(b) Outside the area	...	...	...	19
Approximate length of mains	...	...	...	11 miles
Number of houses not connected to the mains (Not within a reasonable distance of the mains)				8
The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (within the curtilage of the houses)	...	...		4%

Purity of the Water:

Samples are periodically sent for chemical and bacteriological examination. There has been little or no variation from the standard type of report which is reproduced here and no tendency to plumbo solvency has been indicated.

(a) The following is a copy of a Chemical examination of a sample of water carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1

Analysis of a Sample of Water received 11th February, 1959,
from the Haverhill Urban District Council:

Labelled kitchen tap, 13, Fern Grove, Haverhill, Suffolk.

Date—11th February, 1959, at 9.45 a.m.

Chemical results in parts per million.

Appearance—Bright with a few particles. Turbidity—Less than 3.

Colour—Nil. Odour—Nil.

p.H.—7.2. Free Carbon Dioxide—34.

Electric Conductivity—850. Dissolved Solids dried at 180 deg.C.—605

Chlorine present as Chloride—44.

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate—285.

Hardness: Total—450. Carbonate—285. Non-Carbonate—165.

Nitrate Nitrogen—2.5. Nitrite Nitrogen—Absent.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.012. Oxygen Absorbed—0.10.

Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000 Residual Chlorine—Absent.

Iron—0.04.

Metals, Zinc, Copper and Lead—Absent.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so, it contains no excess of mineral constituents and it is of very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

16th February, 1959.

(Signed) Gordon Miles.

(b) The following is a copy of a bacteriological examination of a sample of water made by the

Public Heath Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Nature of sample—Tap, 23, Broadcroft Crescent, Haverhill.

Tap, 12, Paske Avenue, Haverhill.

Date and hour of collection—11.11.58.

Date and hour of arrival—11.11.58.

REPORT. Date of report 13.11.58.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 24 hours 37 deg. C. aerobically.....per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37 deg. C.—
0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of Bact. coli (type I.) 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks: Satisfactory.

(signed) J. Nagington.

Water Charges:

The charges for water are 1s. 7d. per 1,000 gallons with reductions for bulk supplies.

1s. 10d. in the £ on rateable value with a minimum charge of 10s. per annum.

The following show the variations of rest level of the water in the wells, 1953 to 1958 inclusive:

1953	Maximum level, March	...	...	...	...	203.40ft.
	Minimum level, January	...	...	...	...	195.60ft.
1954	Maximum level, May	...	...	...	...	204.00ft.
	Minimum level, January	...	...	...	...	197.50ft.
1955	Maximum level, April	...	...	...	...	201.50ft.
	Minimum level, December	...	...	...	...	190.50ft.
1956	Maximum level, April	...	...	...	...	197.00ft.
	Minimum level, December	...	...	...	...	191.00ft.
1957	Maximum level, March	...	...	...	...	195.66ft.
	Minimum level, December	...	...	...	...	184.91ft.
1958	Maximum level, September	...	...	...	...	194.92ft.
	Minimum level, January	...	...	...	...	189.50ft.

The average daily consumption of water per head was 44 gallons

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks during the last five years, as compared with 1958:

		1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953
January	...	2.07	1.13	2.71	2.08	1.23	0.97
February	...	2.62	1.95	0.76	1.55	1.97	1.39
March	...	0.72	1.32	0.70	1.15	2.09	0.50
April	...	0.89	0.09	1.11	0.44	0.25	1.94
May	...	2.20	0.67	0.58	2.71	2.46	1.79
June	...	5.79	1.65	1.78	2.62	2.26	2.75
July	...	3.24	2.56	1.95	0.86	3.33	2.11
August	...	3.23	2.05	4.81	0.72	4.17	1.90
September	...	2.95	2.81	1.84	2.14	1.27	1.55
October	...	1.86	1.94	2.11	4.58	2.28	2.87
November	...	1.63	2.23	0.97	0.64	3.32	1.13
December	...	2.79	1.71	2.13	1.97	2.28	0.81
Totals	...	29.99	20.11	21.45	21.46	26.91	19.71

Open-Air Swimming Bath:

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the town, the dimensions are 75ft. by 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination Plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

The charges are 15s. for Adult Season Ticket Holders and 7s. 6d. for Juniors, 1s. for Adults and 6d. for Juniors' admission. 31 Adult and 245 Junior Season Tickets were sold. In addition, 5,609 Adults and 5,623 Juniors paid for admission.

Morning periods are reserved for the use of schools during the Summer term, and one evening per week is reserved for adults only.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The Sewage Disposal Works is situated in Coupals Road approximately one mile from the town centre in a south-easterly direction. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18-inch diameter outfall sewer, and the sewerage system is partially separate in operation. All but a few outlying houses are served by the public sewers.

The Disposal Works comprise screening, detritus and storm water tanks, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters, from whence the sewage is finally treated by land irrigation on some 7 acres of land, much of which is under-drained.

The pumping plant is made up of a pair of Diesel Oil Engines operating centrifugal pumps which pump the sewage from the initial collecting tanks up to the settling tanks at the head of the Works. During 1957 a further Diesel Oil Engine was installed and connected to a very old Pump in the Pumphouse which had not been used for many years. This latter Engine and Pump are used to pump the excess flows of sewage on to the land for further treatment, with which the other two pumps could not cope.

The effluent discharges into the Stour brook which is a small stream and a tributary of the River Stour. The standard of effluent which has been attained throughout the year has been very unsatisfactory due to the over-loading of the present Works and the fact that much of the plant is now obsolete and in a very poor condition.

The outline scheme for the reconstruction of the Works was prepared by the Council's Consultants and approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government following a local investigation. The laying of a new 21-inch diameter outfall sewer was commenced at the end of the year. The detailed scheme to serve a population of 7,500 persons will be prepared during 1959 and it is hoped that work will be commenced early in 1960.

Number of dwelling houses connected to the sewers	...	1711
Number of dwelling houses not connected to the sewers (not being within a reasonable distance of a public sewer)		53

Refuse Collection and Disposal:

Collection of refuse is undertaken from some 1,795 domestic and commercial premises. In most cases the collection is made weekly but in the case of a few outlying properties on the outskirts of the town a fortnightly collection operates. The Council purchased a Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipper in April, 1957, with a cubic capacity of 16—18 cu. yds., which is operating very efficiently.

The disposal of the refuse is undertaken by controlled tipping in a disused pit, situated approximately one mile from the town centre in a south-easterly direction.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections and Visits 1227

(The above inspections and visits are divided into)

Dwelling houses (Housing Act)	...	...	...	133
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	...	...	...	102
Butchers' shops and manufacturing premises	...	...	...	24
Food stalls and vehicles	...	...	...	166
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	14
Dairies	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	33
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	6
Wet and fried fish shops	...	...	...	10
Other food shops	...	...	...	40
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	168
Infestation by pigeons	...	...	...	3
Rodent infestation	...	...	...	1
Water supplies	...	...	...	3
Visits re applications for Council houses	...	...	...	191
Petroleum installations	...	...	...	21
Smoke observations and smoke nuisances	...	...	...	7
Drainage	...	...	...	36
Factories	...	...	...	68
Swimming baths	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	59
Visits re flooding	...	...	...	48
Public houses	...	...	...	8
Explosives Act	...	...	...	13
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	32
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	1
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	25

Number of Statutory Notices Nil

Number of Informal Notices 11

Housing:

During the year 50 3-bedroom houses, 8 2-bedroom houses, 20 2-bedroom bungalows and 29 garages were completed.

The Council now own:

- 6 4-bedroom houses
- 398 3-bedroom houses
- 146 2-bedroom houses
- 42 2-bedroom bungalows
- 20 1-bedroom bungalows
- 36 2-bedroom flats
- 32 1-bedroom flats
- 10 pre-fabricated 2-bedroom bungalows
- 13 other houses purchased by the Council
- 2 shops
- 57 garages

Total 703 dwellings + 2 shops + 57 garages.

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

Pigs:

3 Carcases and organs	...	Oedema
1 carcase and organs	...	Carcinoma
1 carcase and organs	...	Gangrenous flesh
1 carcase and organs	...	Septicaemia
1 carcase and organs	...	Generalised Emaciation
1 carcase and organs	...	Pneumonia
2 plucks	... ..	Pneumonia
12 sets of lungs	... ..	Pneumonia
105 heads	... ..	Tuberculosis
1 pluck	... ..	Tuberculosis
1 Liver	... ..	Cirrhosis
1 pluck	... ..	Cirrhosis
1 heart	.. ...	Endocarditis
20 plucks	... ..	Pleurisy
3 sets of lungs	... ..	Pleurisy
1 pluck	... ..	Parasitic
10 livers	... ..	Parasitic
2lbs. carcase meat	...	Abscessed
10lbs. carcase meat	...	Urticaria
44½lbs. carcase meat	...	Bruising and injuries
1 flare fat	... ..	Obstructed bowel

Sheep:

3 carcasses and organs	...	Oedema
1 liver	... ..	Cirrhosis
1 set of lungs	...	Parasitic
6lbs. carcase meat	...	Bruising

Calves:

3lbs. carcase meat	...	Bruising
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Cattle:

6lbs. carcase meat	Bruising
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Total weight of meat condemned during the year amounted to 2,880 pounds.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	75	3	53	908	5653
Number Inspected	75	3	53	908	5653
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	3	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	1	3	57
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis ..	1.3	—	1.9	0.7	1.1
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	106
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	1.9
Cysticercosis :					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—

Food Premises:

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	7
Butchers' manufacturing premises	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers' and general stores	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cafes, school kitchens and factory canteens	...	...	...	...	...	10
Wet and fried fish shops	...	..	...	...	...	4
Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sweets, confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dairies and pasteurising plants	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hotels with catering facilities	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public houses and licensed club	...	...	...	...	...	14
						<hr/> 81

Futher progress was made with improvements to a number of food premises during the year, and again, for the most part, there was the utmost co-operation from members of the food trades in securing compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

SECTION E.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during the last ten years as compared with 1958 as shown in the following table:

TABLE I.

		.48	.49	.50	.51	.52	.53	.54	.55	.56	.57	.58
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	4	4	4	1	—	10	15	3	4
Erysipelas	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pnerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia												
neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	251	—	—	31	7	136	28	4	133	9	85
Whooping cough	5	3	44	13	—	1	—	1	—	—	40	5
Pneumonia	...	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Poliomyelitis												
paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	...	256	3	50	49	12	138	28	15	148	53	100

No deaths resulted from any form of Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Syphilitic disease, Whooping-cough, Poliomyelitis or Measles.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	2	4
Measles	48	37	85
Whooping Cough ..	—	5	5
Pneumonia	4	1	5

SECTION G. TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total all types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No. of cases on register at commencement of year ..	10	9	19	1	1	2	21
No. of cases added during the year	2	2	4	—	—	—	4
No. of cases removed during year	1	2	3	—	—	—	3
No. of cases on register at end of year	11	11	20	1	1	2	22

SECTION H.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I. OF THE ACT.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	5	5			1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	39	63	2		2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	3	2	12			3
TOTAL		46	80	2		

2.—Cases in which *Defects* were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1					4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9						9
(a) Insufficient	1						
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2						10
(c) Not separate for sexes	1						11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12						12
TOTAL	60	5					60

Sections 110 and 111

Outwork:

33 persons are recorded as doing out-work. All are employed on the making of wearing apparel. No action was necessary under either section during the year.

SECTION I.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No case arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

